and raw materials, semi-finished products, components and sub-systems required by Ordnance Factories and Defence PSUs are being procured from the private sector. In the quest for self-reliance, the private sector shall continue to be associated in defence production, with suitable changes in policy and procedures to suit emerging requirements.

Copter crash near Vaishno Devi

1177. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL:
SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the copter Chetak involved in a crash near Vaishno Devi in the first week of February 2001, killing five army personnel, was on an offcial sortie; if so, what are the details of the crash;

(b) whether Government have seen the contradictory reports in the Press suggesting that the visit of a top ranking army offical with his escort entourage to Vaishno Devi shrine was of a personal nature; and

(c) whether Government have taken disciplinary action or conducted any probe into the matter and if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. The Chetak helicopter which crashed near Vaishno Devi shrine on 30th January, 2001, was on an authorised official sortie ordered by HQ Northern command to undertake the mission in support of Army Commander's visit to an operational location within his area of jurisdiction.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A court of Inquiry to investigate all aspects of the accidents has been ordered and its findings are awaited.

Recruitment in Defence Forces From Tamil Nadu

1178. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to raise additional recruits in Defence Forces from Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the recruitments from there is less in comparison to other States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the details of the steps proposed to be taken to recruit qualified youth from TN into the Defence Forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The recruitment of sailors in Navy and Airmen in the Air Force is carried out on all India merit basis, and in the case of Army, the recruitment of soldiers in a State is based upon the total vacancies allotted to the State on the basis of Recruitable Male Population (RMP) factor and the fixed class vacancies in a given year. Thus, Tamil Nadu is allotted its due share of vacancies like other states. All vacancies for Tamil Nadu are by and large fully subscribed. However, to ensure that vacancies allotted to each State are utilised by that State, the Government has issued instructions that the allotted quota to a State may not be diverted to any other State in case of some shortfall in the recruitment.

With the introduction of the new recruitment policy with effect from 1st April, 1998, all recruitment is made through open rallies. Regular rallies are held in Tamil Nadu also covering all parts of the State to meet the targeted recruitment. There is no problem in recruitment from Tamil Nadu.

Aero India 2001 Show

1179. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 150 international and domestic participants took part in the Aero Indian 2001 show inaugurated on the 7th February, 2001 at the Air Force Station, Bangalore;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Chief Minister of Karnataka was not invited for the occasion;

(c) if so, the reasons for not showing courtesy by inviting the Chief Minister of the home State; and

(d) whether Government considers this a violation of the protocol?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The Third International Aero Space Exposition—AERO INDIA 2001—was held at the Air Force Station, Yelahanka (Bangalore) from 7 to 11 February, 2001. The show was inaugurated on 7th February, 2001 at Air Force Station, Yelahanka (Bangalore) by the Raksha Mantri. The first two Aero India shows were also held at the same venue from 1st December to 5th December, 1996 and 8th December to 12th December, 1998 respectively.